

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7628

USINFO WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USCINCEUR VAININGEN GERMANY

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USINFO FOR IOP/M, IBS, IPS, INA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN/XF EG IS MO US AG

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN PRESS BLASTS "AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN-MOROCCAN
STRATEGY" IN MIDEAST

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY. AS U.S. BECOMES MORE
ACTIVE IN CURRENT MIDEAST PEACE INITIATIVES, ALGERIAN MEDIA
HAVE BEGUN SHARP CRITICISM OF U.S. ROLE. SECRETARY VANCE'S
PRESS CONFERENCE AND PROJECTED TRIP RECEIVE NEGATIVE NEWS
TREATMENT AND EDITORIAL COMMENT ON RADIO AND IN PAPERS
DECEMBER 7, AND LEADING GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEATLY LINKS
INITIATIVES OF PRESIDENT SADAT AND KING HASSAN AND GOES ON
TO CONDEMN "AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN-MOROCCAN STRATEGY" IN MIDEAST.
THESE MEDIA ATTACKS ARE FIRST SIGNIFICANT ONES TO BE MADE
IN PAST SEVERAL MONTHS ON U.S., WHICH HISTORICALLY HAS
BEEN FAVORITE WHIPPING BOY OF ALGERIAN MEDIA. END
SUMMARY.

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2. ALGERAIN PRESS AND RADIO HAVE BEGUN SHARP CRITICISM
OF U.S. ROLE IN MEDEAST AS U.S. BECOMES MORE VISIBLY
ACTIVE IN CURRENT PEACE INITIATIVES. SECRETARY VANCE'S
PRESS LATEST PRESS CONFERENCE IS TREATED IN NEGATIVE
FASHION BY RADIO AND PAPERS DECEMBER 7; GOVERNMENT-
OWNED ALGIERS DAILY IN ARABIC "ASH-SHA'B" HEADLINES:

"WASHINGTON PUTS ALL ITS WEIGHT INTO ENSURING SUCCESS OF ITS NEW PLAN IN REGION" AND GOES ON TO SAY THAT SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON POSSIBILITY OF SETTLEMENT WITHOUT GENEVA CONFERENCE IS "DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT IN PEACE MOVES."

3. IN FRONT -PAGE EDITORIAL ON EGYPTIAN POLICY, "ASH-SHA'B" CRITICIZES SECRETARY'S TRIP: "SECRETARY'S PROJECTED VISIT TO REGION IS AMERICAN ATTEMPT TO PUSH ARAB STATES THAT ARE HESITATING INTO SUPPORTING SADAT, OR AT LEAST REFRAINING FROM CONDEMNING HIM PUBLICLY. CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS ATTEMPT TO DESTROY RESULTS OF TRIPOLI MEETING. IN FACE OF THIS IMPERIALIST PLAN, ARAB NATIONAL INTEREST REQUIRES... RENEWED AVOIDANCE OF AMERICAN TRAP AND ABSTENTION FROM ENCOURAGING CAPITULATIONIST INITIATIVES."

4. MORE DRAMATIC IS FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN "EL-MOUDJAHID" LINKING INITIATIVES OF PRESIDENT SADAT AND KING HASSAN AND GOING ON TO CONDEMN "AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN-MOROCCAN STRATEGY" IN MIDEAST: "POSITIVE RESULTS OF TRIPOLI SUMMIT ARE NOW OBJECT OF INSIDIOUS ATTACKS BY CAIRO AND RABAT WHICH, IN CONCERT, ARE PREPARING REJOINER WITH ASSISTANCE OF WASHINGTON.... AMERICAN INTENTIONS CONFIRM...U.S. POLICY REGARDING ITS INTERESTS IN ARAB NATION. NO ONE NOW DOUBTS THAT AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOROCCAN STRATEGY HAS BEEN SET IN MOTION IN ARAB LEVANT. GOVERNMENTS OF CAIRO AND RABAT CLAIM TO BE WORKING TO SAVE ARAB NATION FROM DANGER OF PARTITION THREATENING IT TODAY, BUT THEY DO SO IN ORDER TO GIVE THEIR ISRAELI-AMERICAN-INSPIRED PLAN MORE CHANCE OF SUCCESS AND BETTER ASSURE FRAGMENTATION OF ARAB WORLD. MR. VANCE'S UPCOMING TRIP IS NOT UNRELATED TO THIS NEW STRATEGY OF FRAGMENTATION... DRAWN UP BY EGYPT THIS TIME TO INCLUDE NORTH AFRICA AS WELL AS LEVANT... ON THIS GAME-BOARD, SADAT IS COUNTING HEAVILY ON KING OF MOROCCO, WHO... FOUR DAYS AGO RECEIVED SADAT'S GREEN LIGHT TO BEGIN OPERATION TO DESTABILIZE ARAB WORLD WHEN... MOROCCAN FOMMIN BOUCETTA TRANSMITTED SADAT'S ACCORD ON CONCERTED EGYPTIAN-MOROCCAN ACTION... IN ARAB STATES TO LEAD THEM TO SUPPORT POLICY OF OUR STRETCHED HAND'. WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED OVER REASONS THAT LED MOROCCAN PRESS TO BEGIN PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONING OF MOROCCAN MASSES... IF FOR KING OF MOROCCO TERM 'ARABISM' MEANS SURRENDER, THEN WE ARE GLAD WE COMMITTED 'TREASON'... KING HASSAN'S 'ARABISM' IS NOTHING BUT FORM OF IMPERIALISM DISGUISED IN JELLABA AND OBEDIENT TO STRATEGY THAT HENCEFORTH LINKS CAIRO AND RABAT." (END UNCLASSIFIED)

5. (BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) FOREGOING EDITORIAL
ATTACKS ARE AMONG FIRST TO WHICH U.S. HAS BEEN SUBJECTED
IN SEVERAL MONTHS. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS, ALGERIAN
OFFICIALS HAVE MADE MUCH OF MEDIA'S RESTRAINT IN TREATMENT
OF U.S., TRADITIONALLY THE LEADING BETE NOIRE OF
ALGERIAN EDITORIALISTS. THIS SILENCE, OFFICIALS HAVE ASSERTED,
HAS REFLECTED GENERAL GOA SATISFACTION WITH ADMINISTRATION'S
APPROACH TO WORLD PROBLEMS AND MORE SPECIFICALLY,
APPRECIATION OF U.S. NEUTRALITY ON SAHARA QUESTION.
NOW, SILENCE HAS BEEN BROKEN. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW
STRIDENT MEDIA WILL BECOME. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
HAYNES

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